



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### FLAG DAY

- WHEREAS: Americans will observe Flag Day on June 14, 2017, in honor of our nation's ultimate symbol of freedom and democracy; and
- WHEREAS: In 2017, Americans will also commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance; and
- WHEREAS: The historic oath was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy for the National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day. As a member of the editorial staff of The Youth's Companion magazine in Boston, Francis Bellamy chaired a national campaign to encourage civic consciousness in school children as the country prepared to observe the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus; and
- WHEREAS: The simple yet eloquent words of the Pledge of Allegiance capture both the character of the American people and the principles upon which our nation was founded. One of the most widely recited verses in American literature, the Pledge of Allegiance offers us an opportunity to reaffirm our belief in the very foundation of government and in the cherished goals toward which we continually strive; and
- WHEREAS: Americans are a diverse people but are united by what we believe. We believe that all men are created equal and in freedom, equal opportunity, and justice for all. We rededicate ourselves to these eternal truths every time we pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States; and
- WHEREAS: If we are to protect our freedoms, we must ensure that our children and their children understand the ideals embodied in the Pledge of Allegiance. We must instill in future generations a love of liberty and respect for democracy. We must also teach young people about the significance of responsible citizenship, community service, volunteerism, and the impact the historic oath has made on the social and cultural fabric of America; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2017, as FLAG DAY in Georgia and encourage citizens to observe this day by displaying the U.S. Flag, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public ceremonies, and participating in other activities as may be organized by local governments and civil organizations in communities across the state.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF